Drinking water supply at SC Railway Stations

4648. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drinking water supplied at Vijayawada Railway Station in South Central Railway has been found unsuitable for human consumption;

(b) whether weekly tests are done by the South Central Railway on the quality of water supplied at all the stations;

(c) if so, the details of such testing; and

(d) who supervise these tests?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Quality of drinking water is being tested regularly for chlorination and for bacteriological examination on all the stations as per the schedule laid down by Ministry of Railways. The same is being monitored by the concerned Medical Officers.

Letters written by MPs to the Ministry of Railways

4649. MOHAMMED AFZAL *Alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) 12,173.

(b) 1,838.

(c) 4,850.

(d) Such information is not maintained.

Compensation to land owners for acquisition of land

4650. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prompt payment of compensation has not been paid to the land owners, whose lands have been acquired;

(b) what is the number of cases pending for compensation, Railway zone-wise, for the period of over three years, over five years and over ten years;

(c) whether it is a fact that such persons have been denied job opportunities in Railway services; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the project affected people are not considered on priority for the food stalls, catering arrangements or petty contractors?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Land acquisition for Railway projects is conducted by the Land Acquisition authorities under the State Governments. Compensation as determined by the Land Acquisition authorities is deposited with them in lumpsum by the Railways promptly. Since actual disbursement of compensation is done by the State

Government authorities, information regarding cases of delayed payment of compensation to land owners is not available with the Railways.

(c) The extant instructions provide for consideration for employment for the person himself or his wife|son| daughter displaced as a result of large scale acquisition of land for setting up of projects on Railways, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions stipulated in these instructions. Railways have been following these guidelines in providing jobs to all those who fulfil the criterion.

(d) Yes, Sir. There is no provision in the extant rules for any such special consideration.

Bookstall contract by M/s. Higgim Botham Ltd.

4651. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bookstalls contract of M|s Higgim Botham Ltd. has been renewed for a period of five years from the 1st January, 1994, as per the policy of the Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the percentage of royalty charges fixed to be recovered from these contractors w.e.f. 1st January, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 3.5 per cent of the total sales turnover per annum for the first three years of the contract and 3.75 per cent for the remaining period, subject to payment of a minimum guaranteed amount of royalty which increases progressively from Rs. 8,75,681 in 1994 to Rs. 14,01,897 in 1998.

Bookstalls at Railways Stations

4652. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of stations where Sarvodaya Bookstalls have been provided upto December 1994 on each Zonal Railways;

(b) what are the names of Stations, Zone-wise where Sarva Sewa Sangh Prakashan, Varanasi made request for opening of stalls during January 1990 to December 1994; and

(c) the details of stations, with names, where stalls have been allotted during the period as mentioned in part (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) The details are given blow :

Railways	Sarvodaya Bookstalls provided upto December/94	Requests for opening of stalls during January 1990 to December, 1994	Sarvodaya Bookstalls allotted during Jan., 90 to Dec., 94.
1	2	3	4
Central	Bombay V.T.	Gwalior	Nil
	Dadar	Satna	
	Akola	Banda	
	Khandwa	Hoshangabad	
	Nagpur	Jalgaon	
	Wardha	Kurla Terminus	
	Bhopal		